

## A MERRY WAR IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Eve of Adjournment Marked  
by Almost a Riot in the  
Lower House.

Otto Kempner, of New York,  
Again the Cause by Defying  
Speaker Fish.

He Is Arrested for Contempt and  
Barely Gets Off with a  
Reprimand.

LIVELIEST SCENE IN MANY YEARS.

Partisans on Both Sides Nearly Come to  
Blows—All on Account of the  
Lexow Resolution, Which Is  
Finally Passed.

Albany, April 29.—Almost a riot attended the Assembly's passage of the Lexow resolution appointing a Steering Committee for the Greater New York Commission. For the period of about five minutes the scene in the Chamber was one of the liveliest in years.

The principal actors were the Speaker and Mr. Kempner, of New York. The New Yorker for the second time this session insisted on his right as a member to be recognized, and the Speaker took advantage of a technical parliamentary point to ignore him. Mr. Kempner appealed, and was again ignored, whereupon he kept on shouting for recognition until the wrathful Speaker ordered him arrested for contempt. The Democrats yelled in derision at this proceeding, and some of the hot-headed members on both sides might easily have come to blows had not Leader Stanchfield, with the aid of Leader O'Grady, promptly quieted the disturbance.

The Lexow resolution was purposely held back all day by the Republican leaders. Judging by the narrow majority by which it was finally passed—80 to 69—they had a hard time to drum up the votes.

MERRY RUMPS BEGINS.

When the resolution was about to be passed, Mr. Kempner raised the point that it appropriated money and must go to the Ways and Means Committee before it could be considered. Speaker Fish saw the error in a flash, and saved the resolution by declaring that the roll call had begun, and that Kempner was, therefore, too late.

"I appeal, Mr. Speaker," shouted Mr. Kempner, at the top of his voice. "I appeal, Mr. Speaker, I appeal." But the only answer to his shouts was the shrill voice of the clerk, rapidly calling the roll. Members caught the infectiousness of the scene and yelled: "Ay" or "no," at the top of their voices in reply, and the din was indescribable.

Speaker Fish, who apparently had intended not to consider Mr. Kempner at all, finally ordered him to be in order. In the next breath he directed the sergeant-at-arms to seat the member.

"No, no," shouted the Democrats as they crowded around Kempner, who still kept up his loud shouts of "I appeal."

"Carry out your orders," insisted Speaker Fish to the sergeant-at-arms.

"No, no," replied the Democratic chorus again.

The sergeant-at-arms will carry out his orders, as directed, but he could not still the shouts of "I appeal." At this juncture Mr. Nixon, of Chautauque, who stood near the desk, suggested bringing Mr. Kempner to the floor for contempt. The Speaker jumped at this suggestion of the difficulty in an instant he had put a motion for that purpose, and the Republicans had voted "aye" with a shout.

The Democrats demanded a roll call on this, but it was declared carried while they were speaking.

The sergeant-at-arms will bring the gentleman from New York before the bar of the House, as directed, and the Speaker in tones that rose high above the tumult.

"Roll call on that motion," yell Mr. Trillock, of New York.

"We want a roll call. We want respect for the chair if we can't have our rights."

"Go on, Mr. Speaker," shouted Mr. Horton, "we will stand by you."

"We will, we will," shouted the other Republicans, crowding toward the desk.

The sergeant-at-arms will bring the gentleman before the bar of the House if he has to take every officer of the Assembly to do it," shouted the Speaker again.

OIL ON THE TROUBLED WATERS.

By this time the situation had become so threatening that both Leaders Stanchfield and O'Grady had to use their influence. They finally got the turbulent spirits quieted to such an extent that they could be heard, and Mr. Kempner was arraigned before the desk.

"You are in contempt of the House for disturbing its proceedings, and your offense is punishable. Have you an excuse to offer," said the Speaker.

"Yes, I have," retorted Mr. Kempner promptly and with much vigor. The person who ought to be in the chair is the Speaker himself. You caused all this by refusing to recognize a point of order properly made and by refusing to take an appeal. Your action is in violation of a precedent.

The members, who had by this time calmed down and began to appreciate the serious turn affairs had taken, did not show a sign of either approval or disapproval at this.

Finally, after a short conference between the leaders, it was decided that Mr. Kempner had been reprimanded enough, and that the matter would be dropped, as there should not be anything to engender bad feelings on the very eve of adjournment. Speaker Fish had also calmed down by this time, and took a similar view. He said:

SPEAKER'S PARTING SHOT.

"The Chair has no desire to reprimand the member any further than he has done. He trusts that he will take his seat and remain there the remainder of the session like a member and a gentleman."

Mr. Kempner shook his head defiantly, but went to his seat without a word. On the roll call, however, he asserted that he firmly believed that he was right in calling attention to the violation of the rules and insisting on his right to appeal.

Short speeches were made against the resolution by Mr. Robbins, of Allegheny, and Mr. Stanchfield, but others were shut off by Leader O'Grady moving the previous question. Mr. Robbins said that either the Greater New York bill was unconstitutional, or the resolution was unnecessary. He said the Governor had not yet signed the bill, and he did not believe anybody held a mortgage on the Executive Chamber. The resolution was an affront to the Governor in itself.

Leader Stanchfield asserted that the plain object of the resolution was to get an investigation of certain departments to obtain some further political advantage. Then the debate was closed, and the vote showed 80 to 56 in favor of the resolution.

In the opinion of Mr. Robbins, the Kempner incident passed the resolution by driving the Republicans into line.

Commander Hoff Detained.

Washington, April 29.—Commander William Bainbridge-Hoff has been detached from the command of the Newark, as a result of an investigation held by a court of inquiry for his violation of regulations. The findings of the court were approved by the Navy Department to-day and will be made public tomorrow. It is understood that the court recommended Hoff to be reprimanded.

## HARD WORDS FOR A DYING LEGISLATURE.

Leaders of the Session Revise the  
Work Accomplished.

MR. PAVEY IS WELL SATISFIED.

To the Editor of the Journal:

The session has been an important one in its legislation. The two measures of great public importance were the Liquor law and Greater New York. My opposition to these measures was based upon my belief that they were ill-considered and fraught with the possibility of great evils to the public welfare. Time alone can tell whether these apprehensions were well founded.

In general legislation the session has been marked by careful, conservative work. Many special acts of great public benefit have become laws. The city of New York has special reason to be pleased with the enactment of the Pavey-Page Compromise School law. While it has been strongly opposed by earnest, conscientious people, we have every reason to look forward to a great improvement in the condition of the schools and the efficiency of the school system of New York City.

AS HISTORY WILL RECORD IT.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I would first criticize the increase in the number of members in the Senate as preventing that thorough consideration of public measures by what is regarded as the more conservative branch of the Legislature, such as obtained when, instead of fifty, that body numbered but thirty-two members. The effect of enlarging the membership of the Senate has been to assimilate it more closely in a disposition of its business to the national legislature, where, without particular knowledge or inquiry as to the merits of the various bills voted upon, the recommendations of the committees in favor of or adverse to a bill in all but exceptional cases seals its fate. So far as the character of the membership of the Senate in point of ability is concerned, I believe it compares favorably with any Senate within the last thirty years.

The public grievance, I take it, against the Legislature of 1896 will not be that its work was controlled by corrupt motives, but that from the beginning to the end of the session a violent, uncompromising and, I think, reckless partisan spirit prevailed. This was very evident in the number of bills legislating out of office Democratic officials, and providing by all sorts of questionable legislative expedients for their being supplanted by Republican office-seekers.

The Albany Police bill and the Liquor Tax law will suffice for the defeat of any party responsible for their enactment. What has been called the Compromise School bill, it is to be observed, is no compromise at all.

From the beginning to the end of the session there has been in every instance a public expression has sought to impress its will upon the Legislature a positive and defiant contempt for the people's wish. Cities have been treated as conquered provinces upon which the rural community had the right to devolve the payment of all the expenses of the State Government, and whose charters had about them no sanctity that might not be invaded when a partisan purpose was to be served in their amendment, or, if need be, annihilation.

This presents in brief, to my mind, what an impartial historian in the near future will set down as the complete failure of the Republican party to embrace the opportunity for legitimate public service presented to it in its great triumph at the polls one year ago.

OTTO KEMPNER'S HARSH CRITICISM.

To the Editor of the Journal:

Sir—The session just closing will be known in history as Platt's locked-door Legislature of 1896. When the Raines bill, with its many revolutionary features, was to be considered the free representatives of the people were locked in the Assembly Chamber and a voice upon that infamous measure. This act is characteristic of the entire legislative session.

The Republicans composing this Legislature were obedient to the voice of but one master, and he a private citizen, without authority of any kind from the people. There has never been such an exhibition of abject political slavery as we have constantly witnessed this winter.

The Republican majority has steadily sought to enact legislation intended to extend and enlarge the sphere of governmental authority in directions that have always been held to belong to individual effort and conscience. Another session like this, with its flagrant invasions of private rights and home rule, would prove subversive of every essential principle of American self-government.

COMPLIED WITH THE PEOPLE'S WILL.

To the Editor of the Journal:

We will give to the people of the State the lowest tax rate that they have enjoyed for years; so low, indeed, that when we deduct the amount to be raised for the care of the pauper insane assumed by the State during the last few years as an extra charge it will be seen that the appropriations made for the support of the general government have been made with the most rigid economy consistent with the proper efficiency of the public service in the several departments of the State. But little new construction is provided for the general policy being to confine expenditure to the finishing preservation and support of the present institutions. The adoption of the contract system for completing the Capitol fulfills our promises to the people that we would be economical in the construction work of that building. The enactment of the Liquor Tax law will no doubt be conceded as the most important work of the present Legislature. It is a long step in advance in the matter of reform in the excise system of the State. The abolition of the Excise Boards, and with them the system that necessitated the political pull for the obtaining of what ought to be the right of every honest, law-abiding citizen, and the moderate advance in the amount of the tax to be paid are the salient features of the law. I believe it will vindicate itself, and the men who have decreed and produced it are either ignorant of its provisions or wilful in their misrepresentation of them. No political party will ever dare to repeat it or materially modify it.

There awaits executive approval the bill creating the Greater New York and establishing within the borders of our State the second largest city of the world. We have complied with the desire of the people expressed at the polls in 1894, when a majority of the electors of the district affected voted in favor of consolidation. Another evidence of the careful watch of the Legislature over the interests of the people was the passage of the Anti-Coal Trust bill, one of which is now a law, while the other is in the hands of the Governor. To-day, in spite of the most determined opposition, these bills are law, or about to become law, and an honest and faithful Attorney-General stands ready to guard and preserve the rights of the people and champion their provisions.

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"Our eyes have seen enough of its horrors and our ears have been filled too much with its lamentations. And yet there is an Americanism about the Southern soldier which causes the heart to throb with patriotism when America's interests are at stake, or America's honor assailed. The policies and purposes of a United country would be defended by him with the courage for which he was greatly distinguished in the past, and should a hostile bayonet, by land or sea, be pointed at the country's breast, three millions of men, if necessary, would spring to arms and to victory."

"The Southern or rebel contingent, if you please, for I rather like the term—the sons and grandsons of the veterans of today would be found battling in the foremost ranks, pouring out their blood for the Republic as freely and as courageously as their fathers fought to make two republics grow on this continent where one grew before."

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## STRANGE STORY OF A MISSING GIRL.

Detectives Looking for a  
Young Woman Who  
Is Not Named.

Family Is Said to Be Wealthy  
and She a Favorite in  
Amateur Theatricals

Thought to Have Gone on the Stage,  
but Managers Laugh at  
the Suggestion.

POLICE OF THE COUNTRY INFORMED

Description and Picture Posted in Hospitals, Morgues and Other Places  
at the Direction of the  
Anxious Father.

A well-known society girl, said to be a member of one of the wealthiest and most prominent families in New York, is missing, and notices have been posted in the Morgue and sent to every hospital and Chief of Police in the country. She left her home a week ago, and her parents believe that she has joined some theatrical company, as her tastes run in that direction.

The description sent out by the Beck Secret Service Agency describes a woman of twenty-one years of age, 5 feet 4 inches in height, dark brown hair and brown eyes. When last seen she wore a dark blue dress, with Persian lamb trimming about the bottom of her skirt, a blue waist, bordered with bright plaid, sleeves and sash of the same material, large buttons on the front of the waist, a black hat, with black wings in front and pink flowers in the back, and a seal cape, with Persian lamb trimming.

She wears glasses at times and is a brilliant pianist.

The young woman is said to have been interested in amateur theatricals, and in her impersonation of emotional roles made a success.

Louis J. Beck, to whom has been entrusted the work of locating the missing girl, refuses to make her name public, but said yesterday that she is the daughter of one of New York's most prominent citizens.

"I have had notices, offering a liberal reward, sent to every theatrical agency in the country," Mr. Beck said, "as well as to every theatre, and to every hospital, asylum and morgue. Every chief of police has also been notified. The parents of the missing girl are desirous of avoiding publicity and are willing to pay well for any information that will lead to her recovery. It is barely possible that she may have wandered away during an attack of temporary insanity, but it is believed that she has left home for the purpose of adopting the stage."

Several persons, well known in social and amateur theatrical circles, were seen last night, but they were unable to identify the girl.

It has been intimated that the missing girl had eloped, but Mr. Beck does not believe that. Theatrical managers scold the idea of the missing girl having joined a theatrical company from the fact that the season is about at an end and the companies that have not already closed will do so within very few weeks. They claim that if any manager had been in negotiation with the young woman he would not have had her join his company until September, when the regular season opens.

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A Society Girl Who Is Missing.

She is said to belong to a wealthy family, and a detective agency has issued circulars describing her and asking for information. The picture is from a copy of photograph printed on the circular.

## THE WOMAN DENIES MR. BLOCH'S ALIBI.

That He Was with Mrs. Arlington  
His Defence Against a  
Charge of Theft.

State Senator Darby of Florida Accuses Him of Stealing His  
Watch and \$120 Cash.

BOTH MARLBOROUGH HOTEL GUESTS.

Senator's Vest Found in the Cycle Salesman's Room, but He Says He Was  
Out All Night—Detectives  
Arrest Him.

Louis C. Bloch, a bright young salesman of the National Cycle Company, Denver, is detained at Police Headquarters accused of having robbed State Senator Thomas A. Darby, of Florida, of a gold watch and chain and \$120 in money. Both men were stopping at the Marlborough.

Sensor Darby was called at 4 a. m. yesterday. He went to a bathroom a few doors from his apartment on the third floor. He did not lock his door, and was gone for nearly an hour. When he came back his vest was missing from the chair on which he had left in hanging. In the pockets were two card cases containing his money and the watch, a present from his constituents. The Senator notified the hotel office, and the chambermaids were directed to make a careful search of the rooms of transients.

One of the girls, Maggie Connolly, found the Senator's vest and card cases in the room on the fourth floor occupied by Mr. Bloch. The watch and cash were gone. Captain O'Brien, the Detective Chief, was notified, and he sent W. E. Daley, one of his men, to the hotel.

White Daley was talking to Mr. Todd, the proprietor, Mr. Bloch entered.

"There is the man," said Mr. Todd, and the detective tapped Mr. Bloch on the shoulder.

He seemed genuinely surprised when told of the finding of the coat and vest in his room. He went with the detective to his room, on the fourth floor, and there the former told Bloch he was under arrest.

"Under arrest?" he said. "Why, I was not in the hotel at the time you say the robbery took place."

"Where were you?"

"I can't tell you that," Bloch replied. The circumstantial evidence against him was fully explained. Senator Darby swore out a complaint by the advice of Captain O'Brien, and Bloch was taken to Headquarters. After some reflection he said to the detectives:

"I was with Mrs. L. C. Arlington and another woman and a medical student called Arthur last night. We went to Koster & Bial's. Then we had supper at a restaurant. After that I went with the ladies to Mrs. Arlington's apartments, in No. 228 West Thirty-seventh street, and was entertained with piano playing and singing. I was not in the Marlborough at the time the robbery occurred."

Mrs. Arlington lives on the third floor of the Portia apartment house, and with her daughter, Mrs. Arlington is a tall blonde. She utterly repudiates Bloch's story, in gross and